

C.1.  
C442(1) MAIDSTONE M

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



# ANNUAL REPORT

for

1938

on the

## HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

---

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,  
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

---

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the  
Borough of Maidstone.

---

Maidstone:  
W. P. DICKINSON & SON, LTD., Printers and Stationers, HIGH STREET.

---

1939



BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1938

ON THE

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

---

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,  
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

---

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the Borough  
of Maidstone.

---

MAIDSTONE :

W. P. Dickinson & Son, Ltd., Printers and Stationers, High Street.

---

1939.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29780676>

**BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.**

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1938.**

*To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Borough of Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

During the year the health of Maidstone has on the whole been good and there has been no marked incidence of infectious disease, while I am pleased to record a diminution in the number of cases of diphtheria. The death rate of 10·2 per 1,000 population is below that recorded for the whole country and I am glad to say that the maternal mortality rate has fallen from 7·45 in 1937, to 4·2 in 1938, though this figure is still too high.

There is still a shortage of houses in the town, in spite of the extensive building activity which has been apparent, but these new houses are built for sale and there is a great want of houses for the workers in the Borough which can be let at reasonable rents. I urge that further municipal building is needed to provide homes for those who are not in a position to undertake house purchase and for whom the houses provided by private enterprise are not available.

The inspection of meat killed for human consumption does not yet ensure that all such meat is inspected before sale and I recommend that the Corporation should consider the establishment of a public abattoir, which is the only means by which complete inspection can be secured.

The improvements and augmentation of the Town's water supply which have been undertaken by the Water Company and which are nearing completion will provide supplies, ample in quantity and of excellent quality, which should serve for the needs of the Borough for many years.

The work of the Health Department has been sadly handicapped and hindered by the demands made on the time of the Staff during the year by the extra work involved in the furthering of A.R.P. and it would seem that more, and more insistent, calls on the time and energy of Medical Officers of Health are to be made. For the fact that this Report is somewhat late in appearing, the blame must be laid on A.R.P.

To the Corporation, the Chairmen and Members of the Committees which are concerned with Public Health matters, to my colleagues of the Corporation Staff and to my medical brethren in the Borough, I wish to offer my sincere thanks for the help and co-operation I have received during the year, and,

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MAIDSTONE.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

*July 2nd, 1939.*

# BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

---

## HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1938-1939.

---

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor P. WAKEFIELD.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor P. BROWN).

Mr. Alderman FRENCH.

Mr. Councillor CRICK	Mrs. Councillor RELE.
„ „ HOBDAV.	Mr. „ SHRUBSOLE.
„ „ HUNTER.	Mrs. „ STRICKLAND.
„ „ LYLE.	Mr. „ WATSON.

---

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1938-1939.

---

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor P. WAKEFIELD.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor P. BROWN).

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, and

Dr. MARJORY DAY.	Mrs. R. B. HAYNES.
Miss MARJORIE HAYNES.	„ G. C. DEVAS.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

**Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

**Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**

E. CONSTANCE WHYTE, M.B., Ch.B.

(Appointed 21/2/38).

**Chief Sanitary Inspector.**

W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I.,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

**Additional Sanitary Inspectors.**

G. S. Adams, A.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

H. H. Moule, Cert. R. San. I. (Appointed 25/5/38).

S. V. Carr, Cert. R. San. I. (Appointed 24/8/38).

**Health Visitors.**

Miss E. M. Reid—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Miss M. Jackson—State Registration Certificate General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Miss J. Tindale—State Registration Certificate General Nursing; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Miss G. Griffiths—State Registration Certificate General Nursing; Certificate of the General Midwives Board; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

**Public Analyst.**

E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

**Veterinary Officer.**

C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

**Matron of Isolation Hospital.**

Miss L. Bennett, S.R.N., C.M.B.

**Clerks.**

R. J. Davis.                      B. G. Willis.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—5,972 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1938—47,630.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1938) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 12,940.

RATEABLE VALUE—£452,362.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,785.

During 1938, Maidstone has continued to enjoy the happy conditions which have been recorded in previous reports and to maintain its position as a thriving and prosperous county town with active and expanding industries and the centre of a prosperous agricultural area. The success of farming in the district has been the main source of Maidstone's prosperity, which has been reflected in the activity of the other branches of industry in the Borough, again pointing out the lesson which might well be heeded by those set to govern in the country, that every culture has its foundation in agriculture.

The local industries has continued to prosper; the paper mills have provided much employment and the manufacture of food-stuffs and confectionery has contributed greatly to the prosperity of Maidstone, and the local engineering works are playing an important and growing part in the re-armament of the nation, while this activity in other trades has given opportunity for further activity in the building trade.

The reports of work and opportunity in Maidstone have attracted to the town workers from elsewhere in greater numbers than local industry has been able to absorb and there has been a certain amount of unemployment, but there is no direct evidence that unemployment has been of significant influence on the health of children or adults. As evidence of the good physical condition of the population, it may be noted that at the routine medical inspection of the school children in the year, only 9 cases of definitely bad nutrition were discovered, the slightly sub normal were but 13.9% of the total, while 72.7% were found to be of average nutrition and 12.9% are recorded as excellent. And from personal observation in the examination of young men for recruiting for National Service, I can assert that this pleasing state of affairs is not confined to the school children, for the physical standard of the recruits which I have seen has been high.



## Extracts from Vital Statistics

### LIVE BIRTHS

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate .....	654	342	312
Illegitimate .....	32	16	16
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			14·2
STILLBIRTHS. ....	28	20	8

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..... 39·2

DEATHS ... ..	529	264	265
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			10·2

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	nil.	—
No. 30 other puerperal causes	3	4·2
Total .....	3	4·2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	32·1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	27·5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	120·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	80
„ „ Measles (all ages) .....	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	1

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

B. 1 (i). The particulars concerning the Public Health Officers of the Authority are set out at the beginning of this report.

B. 1 (ii) *a*. **LABORATORY FACILITIES.** The particulars of the provision for laboratory facilities, which is made by the Kent County Council have been detailed in previous reports and this service has been extended and improved, especially in the provision for the examination of samples of water and of milk. The laboratory is located at Maidstone so that the Borough is exceptionally fortunate in having so adequate and efficient a laboratory service at hand.

B. 1 (ii) *b*. **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.** The ambulance service for accident and non-infectious cases, which is given by the Maidstone Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is very efficient and the men and women who give this voluntary service to the Town, lay the community under a heavy debt of gratitude, which should find expression in ready and generous support for the Brigade. For infectious and septic cases, an ambulance has been provided at the Isolation Hospital and there is ample

co-operation between these, the voluntary and municipal ambulance services. For the purposes of Air Raids Precautions, the St. John Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society have been most active in the training of volunteers and one benefit at least has been secured from the threat of aerial bombardment, that a large proportion of the inhabitants of the town will have acquired some rudimentary knowledge of first aid.

B. 1 (ii). *c.* NURSING IN THE HOME. There has been a continued use made of the nurses attached to the West Kent General Hospital for the home nursing of patients. The Maidstone District Nursing Association, which was recently established, has gone on increasing in value and importance. The Association provides a district nursing service in Maidstone and in adjacent villages and now employs three nurses. During the year, the work was greatly assisted by the provision of a car for the transport of the nurses and it is only by this means that the nurses have been able to cope with the number of calls upon them. At the end of the year, the total number of subscribers was 6,333 and the visits paid by the nurses in the year was 8,417.

B. 1 (ii). *d.* TREATMENT CENTRE AND CLINICS.

(*t*) Maternity and Child Welfare. No new M. C. W. Centre has been opened during the year but the three existing centres, at the Old Palace, at Barming and at Mangravet have continued to work with success. The attendances at the Old Palace have taxed the space to the utmost and the centres at Barming and Mangravet, in spite of the fact that their accommodation is inconvenient and really most unsuitable have shown a steady increase in numbers and are doing most valuable work. Better accommodation for these branch centres and a possible additional branch centre at Ringlestone are improvements which I should like to see established, but the last named is not possible with the present staff. The Ante-natal clinic at the Old Palace, which is held weekly, is doing very excellent work. It would appear however that this clinic is resorted to as a portal of entry to the maternity ward at the hospital rather than as a centre for the supervision and assistance of the cases which are to be delivered in the homes. This latter is the real function of an ante-natal clinic and I cannot record that there is sufficient use made of the ante-natal centre by the midwives in the town, either in sending or bringing their patients to the centre. This reluctance to make use of the ante natal centre and the facilities for advice and medical supervision, by the midwives, makes me still more convinced that the duties of the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts should be entrusted

to the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and that the situation which exists at present, where the duties as Supervising Authority are retained by the County Council and the duties as M. & C. W. Authority are carried out by the Borough, could, and should, be amended. The Pre-school clinic, which is designed to fill the gap between the infant welfare centre and the school medical service, is now being much more widely used and an innovation, which was recently introduced, of sending to each child on the fourth birthday a letter from the M.O.H. with birthday greetings and an invitation to the next session of the pre-school clinic, has resulted in a pleasing growth in the usefulness of this clinic and an increase in the attendance. The voluntary workers, who have given such valuable services to the M. & C.W. work in the past, have continued their help which is much appreciated and which I hope will be available in the future.

(u) Tuberculosis. The K.C.C. Tuberculosis Dispensary in Station Road is widely used both by patients from the Borough of Maidstone and from the surrounding parishes.

(v) Venereal Diseases. This is also a service provided by the County Council and the Maidstone area is served by the clinic at Rochester.

(w) School Clinics. Minor ailments. The arrangement by which each of the three Central School areas in the Borough is served by a minor ailments clinic was detailed in my report for last year and the arrangement has continued to work well. Details of the work of these clinics have already been published in my report on The School Medical Service for 1938, but it will be of interest to record here that the total number of children treated at these clinics in the year was 1,696 and the attendances numbered 6,227.

(x) Dental Clinics. The dental clinics have continued to do valuable work among the school children. Full information of this work is also to be found in the report on the School Medical Service but it is appalling to realise that dental inspection revealed that treatment was needed in 66·3% of the the children examined—two out of every three,—and the amount of dental work that is waiting to be done shows that the present provision for treatment can hardly be regarded as sufficient. Again I must call attention to the need for better and more commodious premises for the dental clinic at the Education Offices, for the present space and equipment is hopelessly inadequate.



Attendances of Infants at Barming	...	...	...	861
"    Children    "	...	...	...	755
"    Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	...	1126
"    Infants    "	...	...	...	569
"    Children    "	...	...	...	1093
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	...	102
"            Barming	...	...	...	51
"            Mangravet	...	...	...	51
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	...	51
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	...	292
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	...	476
Number of Health Talks given	...	...	...	48
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	2661
"            "            "            Barming	...	...	...	750
"            "            "            Mangravet	...	...	...	917
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	...	...	...	74
"    Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	26
"    Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	...	32
"    Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	...	...	15
"    Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet...	...	...	...	33
"    Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	...	18
Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	...	575
"    Infants    "            "	...	...	...	451
"    Children    "           "	...	...	...	255
"    Mothers    "           Barming	...	...	...	116
"    Infants    "           "	...	...	...	78
"    Children    "          "	...	...	...	64
"    Mothers    "           Mangravet	...	...	...	92
"    Infants    "           "	...	...	...	26
"    Children    "          "	...	...	...	104
Pre-School Clinics held	...	...	...	12
Attendance of Children	...	...	...	150
Individual Children	...	...	...	114
Average Attendance	...	...	...	13

B. 1 (ii) e. HOSPITALS,—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY. The voluntary hospitals which serve the Borough of Maidstone are the West Kent General Hospital and the Kent County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital, both of which are situated in the County Town. Very large use is made of these hospitals and details concerning them have been given in previous reports. The voluntary hospitals in Rochester, Tunbridge Wells and in London also help in the treatment of cases from Maidstone, while the County Hospitals, at Coxheath, Pembury and the Medway Hospital at Chatham, also serve the area.

The hospital provision for which the Borough Council is directly responsible consists of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fant Lane and the Maternity Home at the West Kent General Hospital.



Of the defects and inadequacy of the Isolation Hospital I have written at length in reports for the last seven years, until patience is almost exhausted and hope of obtaining the needful improvement is deferred long past the proverbial point of making the heart sick. This hospital, which was built nearly 60 years ago, has long been insufficient, both in accommodation and equipment, for the needs of the Borough and is ripe, and over-ripe, for re-construction and improvement. The Wards give a number of beds which is insufficient for the requirements of the town and the yearly increase in the population makes this insufficiency more pressing: their design makes the separation and nursing of the patients very difficult and at times an impossible problem, while heating and maintenance of the building are wasteful and expensive. The present nursing and domestic staff cannot be housed in the present staff quarters and the Nurses Home does not give anything approaching the space and comfort that nurses should have and that is expected by the nursing profession in these days, with the result that the requisite staff can only be obtained with difficulty and retained with greater difficulty. The kitchen and storage provision is inadequate, both in space and equipment, and the laundry is completely unsuitable for the purposes of an up-to-date hospital. There is no enbicle block at the hospital, no provision for any operative treatment that may be necessary and even such elementary needs as bathrooms are insufficiently provided. The site on which the hospital stands would be large enough to allow of the building of the isolation hospital accommodation needed for the town, now and for any probable future growth and the Health Committee is alive to the need for better provision and willing to take action to secure it, were it not that the County scheme for the isolation hospitals in the County is still in a state of suspension and there is still uncertainty as to what the fate of the Maidstone hospital is to be. Until this is decided, the Health Committee is naturally unwilling to undertake the re-construction which is admitted to be necessary. This has been the position since 1932,—perhaps as used to be said in the War, the first seven years are the worst.

The new Maternity Ward at the West Kent Hospital, which was opened in the autumn of 1937, has proved to be a great success. In last year's report, I detailed the arrangements between the Corporation and the Hospital by which this ward is established and maintained and during the past year, the popularity of the municipal maternity ward has become increasingly obvious. Up to the end of 1938, 184 Borough cases were admitted to the ward and it would appear that in estimating for the beds required, we have rather under-estimated the demands that would be made on the accommodation.

B. 3 (i). MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES. The number of midwives practising in the Borough is 17, and, of these, 7 are midwives appointed under the County Council under the Midwives

Act, 1936. The appointment, supervision and inspection of these midwives is in the hands of the County Health Department and they are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. I have urged before and can only repeat, though with little hope that I shall be heeded, that where, as in Maidstone, the Local Authority is the authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, the supervising and inspection of midwives, especially the whole-time salaried midwives under the 1936 Act, should be entrusted to the same authority and that the separation of the two parts of what is essentially the same maternity service, which should have the same objects in the reduction of maternal and infantile mortality, is productive of waste and inefficiency.

During 1938, 766 births were notified, 746 live births and 30 still-births. Of these, in 475 cases the confinement was in the patients' homes, and 291 births took place in nursing homes or hospitals. I give below the number of births in Maidstone and the maternal mortality rate for the past 10 years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Maternal deaths.	Maternal death rate.
1929	647	—	—
1930	680	2	2·94
1931	668	—	—
1932	665	2	3·01
1933	603	2	3·32
1934	654	4	6·11
1935	675	2	2·96
1936	721	1	1·39
1937	671	5	7·45
1938	686	3	4·2

During 1938 the amount of fresh milk supplied by the Corporation for nursing and expectant mothers and for infants in necessitous cases was 1,600 gallons. The amount of dried milk given free was 426 pounds. The number of maternity outfits supplied during the year was 20,—2 of these being given free.

B. 3 (ii). INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS & CHILDREN. During 1938, there has been no alteration or development of the institutional provision for mothers or children. As mentioned in previous reports, use has been made of various charitable agencies to obtain convalescent treatment for children in need of change of air, and also of the sea-side institutions maintained by the Public Assistance Committee, while the Maidstone Education Committee has now 8 physically defective children maintained at special residential schools. The "Pre-school" clinic is now being more widely used and is of help in earlier discovery of cases of debility and sickness and I should like to see this clinic becoming of more help in the furthering of protective immunisation against diphtheria. Again I would call attention to the need for nursery schools in Maidstone: I know that in this I have the agreement of the Teachers of the Infant Schools and I should like to stress the necessity for such provision, which yearly becomes more clamant. I hope that my constant reiteration of this necessity

will bear fruit, for I am convinced that the establishment of nursery schools would be a real step forward towards the improvement of the physical and mental condition of the children.

B. 3 (iii). **HEALTH VISITORS.** The number of Health Visitors now employed in the Borough is 4, and details of their qualifications are set out at the beginning of this report. The Health Visitors combine their duties with those of School Nurses and the system which I have outlined in other reports has worked smoothly and well.

B. 3 (iv). **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.** The Health Visitors employed by the Corporation also undertake the duties of Visitor under the Children Act, and each, in the area for which she is responsible as Health Visitor and School Nurse, also visits the boarded-out children. This arrangement has produced a more satisfactory system of supervising the foster-mothers and the boarded-out children and the care of these children has been linked up with the M. & C.W. Centres. Details of this work are tabulated below :—

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. (Section 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936.)**

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year ... ..	30
(b) Number of children on the Register :—	
(i.) at the end of the year .....	34
(ii.) who died during the year .....	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were :—	
(i.) Health Visitors...	4
(ii.) Female, other than Health Visitors .....	1 School Nurse.
(iii.) Male .....	—
(d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 2 (2) of the Act of 1936 ..	—
(e) Proceedings taken during the year :—	
No. of Cases.	Act and Section under which proceedings were taken.
—	—
(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year :—	
(i.) Under (a) of Section 210 of the Children Act of 1936	—
(ii.) „ (b) „ „ „	—
(iii.) „ (c) „ „ „	—
(g) Number of orders obtained during the year under Section 212 of the Act of 1936 :—	
(i.) from a court of summary jurisdiction ... ..	—
(ii.) from a single justice ... ..	—



B. 3 (v). **ARRANGEMENTS FOR DENTAL, ORTHOPÆDIC ETC, CASES.** Orthopædic cases are treated at the West Kent Hospital, where a weekly orthopædic clinic is held, under the care of Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S. Remedial exercises, massage and electrical treatment are available and excellent results are obtained. Extension and improvement of this department of the hospital are needed and I suggest that this is a part of the hospital work where assistance from the Local Authority, such as has been successfully given in connection with the Maternity Ward, might well be provided. The dental treatment of expectant mothers is provided by the Samaritan Fund in connection with the Ante-natal clinic, but more dental treatment is needed for the state of some of the patients teeth is deplorable.

## **SECTION C.**

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

C. 1 (i). **WATER.** The public supplies of water in the Borough of Maidstone are drawn from the various sources owned and controlled by the Maidstone Water Company. These consist of deep wells and protected springs, whence the water is pumped to reservoirs and elevated tanks, for distribution throughout the town. The mains from the different reservoirs are inter-connected and the supply during the year has been constant and satisfactory and there has been no necessity for any restriction on the use of water, at any period.

There is a regular system of inspection and patrol of the gathering grounds, springs and reservoirs of the Company by their own staff and to ensure the protection of the gathering grounds, the Company has made purchases of land and covenanted for restrictions of the use to which other land may be put. During the year, inspections of the sources, reservoirs and pumping stations were made by myself, in company with the Consulting Bacteriologist to the Company, Professor Eyre, and the Company's Engineer. At each inspection, the entire works, including the reservoirs and pumping stations were found to be in a very satisfactory state. The quality of the water is controlled by chemical and bacteriological examinations and the results of these are to be found in the tables at the end of this report. The chlorination of the water from the Ewell source has been continued and the newly installed plant for the removal of iron from the water from the Cossington source has been very successful.

The new water tower at Linton was completed at the end of the year and will prove a valuable addition to the system and it is worth noting that, in this tower, the Company has succeeded in

providing a water tower which fulfils the purpose for which it is designed, without being an eye-sore in the neighbourhood. The new works at Boxley are nearing completion and with the opening of this station, there should be ample provision for the needs of the Borough for many years.

There have been extensions of the water mains in different parts of the Borough to provide supply for new building development.

Below is a table showing the average results of the chemical analysis of the water during the year.

Average results, 1938.	BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.
Total Solid Residue ... ..	25.1	22.5	38.6	30.7
Chlorine ... ..	1.51	1.30	2.40	1.94
Nitrogen (Nitrates) .. ..	0.38	0.32	0.31	.30
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ammoniacal Ammonia ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.0002	0.0001
Iron ... ..	0.004	0.02	0.0003	0.003
Oxygen absorbed ( $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 27° C.)	.0028	.0027	0.0037	0.0035
„ „ (4 hours at 27° C.)	.005	.0048	0.006	0.0058
Total Hardness ... ..	15.7	15.0	25.1	19.2

C. 1. (ii). DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. During 1938 extensions of the town sewer system—soil and surface water sewers—have been made, to serve various housing estates. These extensions are tabulated below ;—

	Soil sewers.	Surface water.
Coombe Estate ... ..	210 yards	450 yards
Tonbridge Road ... ..	700 yards	—
London Road Estate, No. 10a	70 yards	70 yards
Allington Estate ... ..	140 yards	—
Knowle Road ... ..	90 yards	110 yards
Downs Road ... ..	290 yards	316 yards
Palace Farm Estate ... ..	208 yards	135 yards
	<u>1708 yards</u>	<u>1081 yards</u>

C. 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The main streams draining the area of the Borough of Maidstone, are the Medway and its tributary, the Len. The amount of pollution which unfortunately exists in both these rivers has been commented on in former reports and has been the subject of anxious consideration both to the Health Committee and the Council. In the summer of 1938, when there

was a great and abnormal reduction of rainfall and a consequent shortage of water in the river, the drawing-off of the water between Allington and Farleigh Locks necessitated the refilling of this reach of the river by allowing water to return from the lower stretches of the river at the high tide. This procedure apparently caused a disturbance in the bed of the river with disastrous results to the fish life in the Medway and the spectacle of the river clogged with thousands of dead fish excited much comment in the town.

Though it cannot be gainsaid that there is a considerable amount of pollution of the water in the Medway before it reaches the Borough, samples taken at this time showed that there was a marked deterioration in the quality of the water in its passage through the town. Thus on September 2nd, the water at Farleigh Lock showed an oxygen content of 0.85 parts per 100,000 while below the town at the Malta Inn, the oxygen content had dropped to 0.12 parts per 100,000. Samples taken at various industrial works in the course of the river showed that some of the effluents were unsatisfactory, such matter as china clay, paper fibres, vegetable peelings and waste and other deleterious substances, were found to be discharged into the river, while of course the low level of the water and the diminution of the flow made the effect of this pollution more marked.

It was thus apparent that the industrial effluents passing into the river in the Town were causing an undue amount of pollution of the river and steps were taken, by interviews between the Chairman of the Health Committee, with the M.C.H. and the Sanitary Inspector, and the Directorate of the firms concerned, to secure that action should be taken to lessen this pollution. I am glad to report that the firms were very ready and willing to co-operate in order to secure the needed improvements and that action has resulted which it is hoped will ensure that pollution of such gravity will be obviated in future. Restrictions of space and technical difficulties in the materials used in the manufactures, especially in the case of the paper works, make it difficult, if not impossible, to provide for the removal of all trade waste from the effluents, but it is hoped that the measures which are being taken will give an improvement in the state of the river, always remembering that in Maidstone at least, the Medway has become an industrial stream and that the continuance of her industries is of paramount importance to the town, while the work which is being done by the Catchment Board to improve the bed of the river and clear any obstructions to the flow, will assist to prevent a recurrence of the unfortunate happenings of last summer.

C. 3 (i). CLOSET ACCOMMODATION The approximate number of premises equipped with each type of sanitary convenience is shown in the table below. Most of the houses in the Borough are now connected with the sewer system and the extension of the sewers in the outlying areas and the provision of sewers in the Barming district, in connection with the sewerage disposal works belonging to the Maidstone Rural District will permit of the abolition of many cess-pools. The conversion of these and of the remaining earth and pail-closets is proceeding regularly.

W.C's discharging into the sewer system ...	12,728
W.C's        „        „        cess-pools        ...	189
Earth closets or privy middens        ...        ...	81
Pail closets ...        ...        ...        ...        ...	75

C. 3 (ii). PUBLIC CLEANSING. The disposal of refuse in Maidstone is carried out by incineration at the new destructor works which were described in previous reports. During the year, there have been extensions and improvements of the arrangements for the recovery and storage of saleable salvage and the scheme for the collection and salvage of clean waste paper has proved a great success. The disposal works have been adequate to deal with all the refuse collected and there has been no nuisance.

The collection of household and trade refuse was formerly carried out by contract, but during 1938, an alteration was made whereby the Council undertook this work by direct labour. A fleet of new and larger petrol-driven vehicles was provided of a more efficient type than the old electric wagons, both as regards capacity and enclosing of the refuse. These have proved very satisfactory and though the change-over was not accomplished without some difficulty, which was accentuated by the fact that the time of the change coincided with a spell of very severe weather, the new scheme of refuse collection has been worked with very few hold-ups and has now settled into efficient and satisfactory working, for which the men employed deserve praise.

C. 3 (iii). SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. I give below in tabular form, the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935 and Article 19 (15) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926 :—

# Sanitary Inspection of the Area

## TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed .....	17
Bakehouse inspections.....	30
Chimneys repaired .....	42
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided.....	24
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired .....	27
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections .....	40
Common Lodging House inspections .....	28
Coppers repaired .....	31
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff .....	2954
,, choked and cleansed .....	649
,, reconstructed .....	40
,, tested with smoke .....	35
,, ,, water.....	65
,, inspection chambers provided .....	37
,, ,, ,, airtight covers provided .....	76
,, stoneware pipes laid .....	2025'
,, iron pipes laid .....	48'
,, trapped from sewer and ventilated .....	9
Dustbins provided.....	215
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected .....	128
Fresh air inlets provided.....	15
Grates renewed or repaired.....	25
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars.....	2
,, floors to living-rooms provided or repaired .....	67
,, shooting or guttering repaired or renewed .....	41
,, roofs repaired.....	127
,, rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered.....	429
,, walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method .....	37
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases.....	107
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise .....	820
,, of work in progress .....	2401
Mortar joints of brickwork repaired .....	283
Miscellaneous defects remedied .....	54
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt .....	28
Poultry or animals removed .....	6
Schools inspected .....	7
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped .....	34
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired .....	13
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	820
Stairs repaired .....	41
Stoneware gullies provided.....	24
Strainers provided to gullies .....	35
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired .....	41
,, additional, provided .....	19
,, flushing apparatus provided or repaired .....	42
,, new pans and traps provided .....	38
,, structural defects remedied .....	20
Water supplies provided.....	19
Window frames repaired.....	77
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed .....	81
Vermineous rooms cleansed .....	240
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses .....	42
Preliminary Notices served .....	184
Statutory Notices served.....	224



C. 3. (iv). SHOPS, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. I give below a tabular statement of the number of inspections of factories, workshops and workplaces showing the number of defects found, the action taken and the result. A certificate of exemption was granted in respect of one shop under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.

### Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

#### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories.....	60	2	—
(Including Factory Laundries).			
Workshops.....	48	2	—
(Including Workshop Laundries).			
Workplaces .....	20	—	—
(Other than Outworkers' premises).			
TOTAL.....	128	4	—

#### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :				
Want of Cleanliness .....	12	11	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances .....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation. { Insufficient .....	2	2	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective ..	1	1	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake-house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .....	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the out-work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	15	14	—	—

C. 3 (v). **CAMPING SITES.** There are no sites within the Borough area which are regularly used for camping and no licences have been issued by the Local Authority in respect of camping sites, under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

C. 3 (vi). **SMOKE ABATEMENT.** During the year there have been complaints at times of the emissions from factory chimneys and, where necessary, observation has been kept on such chimneys with the object of securing abatement of the nuisance caused by the emission of black smoke. Again I am glad to report that the firms concerned have shown every willingness to take measures to prevent this cause of complaint. In several cases, improvements to the chimneys have been made with this object and any complaints which have been necessary have met with immediate action to effect an improvement.

C. 3 (vii). **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.** The swimming baths open to the public in Maidstone consist of the public baths provided by the Corporation, at which there are two baths, large and small, for swimmers. These baths are very largely used both by the ordinary public and, under arrangement between the Baths Committee and the Education Committee, by the school children of the Borough and in the summer months are taxed almost beyond their capacity. The baths are not of modern type and the equipment is not of the standard which is desired in a modern bath establishment and it is to be hoped that the scheme for the new swimming baths which has been discussed and deferred for so long, will not be much longer delayed.

The water in the swimming pools is cleansed and purified by means of a plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. This plant should be adequate to ensure efficient purification of the water, but the results obtained have been very variable—at times showing fairly satisfactory results and at others revealing that the degree of purification obtained was quite inadequate. In June of last year, I had to report to the Baths Committee that the condition of the water was very unsatisfactory and to urge that the baths be emptied and refilled, that the purification plant be overhauled and that better attention and supervision be given to its working. Improved results were obtained later, but I must urge that the plant, which should be capable of giving a high degree of purification, needs adequate and intelligent care and attention. It is hoped that in future this will be obtainable and that consistently good results will be shown by the bacteriological examinations.

In the summer months, there is much use of the upper reaches of the Medway for bathing, but this can hardly be regarded as satisfactory, until there is an improvement in the state of the river.

A swimming bath has been provided at the Boys' Grammar School, which is used in the summer term. The water in this pool is also cleansed by filtration and chlorination.

### C. 3 (viii).

Measures for the eradication of bed-bugs have been vigorously pursued during the year and the number of applications for help in the extermination of these pests is increasing. In the older and poorer property in the town, there is a deplorable prevalence of this infestation and the difficulties in the eradication of the insects are very great, especially when dealing with old and crowded property, in which there is much timber and plaster work and where the dividing walls between the houses are faulty. The measures used are gassing with hydrogen cyanide, spraying with an insecticide or the burning of candles of sulphur or of the proprietary preparations. Of these, the method of gassing is by far the most effective, for it is well-nigh impossible to ensure that an insecticide spray reaches the cracks and crevices in which the bugs lurk but the restrictions on the use of the gas have limited the number of houses in which it can be employed and in the older and more crowded property, this method is not available. I would again emphasise that bugs are concomitants of dirt and that regular and thorough cleaning is the best way to prevent this plague, which is so hard to remove when once established.

During the year the following work in the eradication of bugs was carried out :—

(1)	(a)	Council houses found to be infested .....	15
	(b)	Other houses       ,,       ,,       ,, .....	42
	(a)	Council houses disinfected—	
	(a)	By gassing with HCN .....	13
	(b)	By spraying and burning insecticides .....	2
	(b)	Other houses disinfected—	
	(a)	By gassing with HCN .....	1
	(b)	By spraying and burning insecticides .....	41
(2)	The methods employed have been gassing with HCN and the burning of candles of sulphur or of the proprietary insecticides and spraying with insecticide solutions. The brands used have been "Cumex" and "Thermatox" blocks and "Zaldecide" solution. The method of gassing is used where the house is already empty or where the tenants can vacate the house for the required time; in other cases the use of the spray or of the candles is resorted to		



- (3) All houses of families who are moving into Council houses are inspected for cleanliness before the removal takes place and where vermin are found, the furniture is fumigated with HCN gas during the transfer. The bedding is treated at the Corporation's steam disinfector.
- (4) The disinfestation by HCN gas is carried out by a contracting firm, while the spraying and disinfestation by burning caudles and blocks is done by the staff of the Local Authority.
- (5) Infested families, after the measures to eradicate the vermin, are visited and supervised and advice given to obtain a higher degree of cleanliness and to prevent a recurrence of the infestation.

Verminous households fumigated before removal to a Council house or during transfer to another Council house .....	24
Council houses inspected and found clean.....	133
Other houses inspected and found clean.....	139

C. 3 (ix). PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The premises in the Borough which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations are as follows :—

Common Lodging Houses .....	5
Slaughter Houses .....	16
Houses let in Lodgings .....	6
Cowsheds .....	12
Dairies and Milkshops .....	25

The common lodging houses and the houses let in lodgings have again been the source of some difficulty and need constant supervision. In Maidstone, there is a constant proportion of migrants and others in need of lodging and the report of employment being obtainable in the town, draws many to the Borough in search of work where the difficulty in finding a house often results in their having to remain in the lodging houses for long periods. In previous reports, I have urged the desirability of a municipal lodging house, but this suggestion has been rejected. I cannot but regret that this was so, and I feel that the provision of adequate accommodation for the migrant and homeless section of the population, which is a problem which will unfortunately remain with us, should not be shelved only on the grounds that such a lodging house would not be completely self-supporting.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and the dairies and milk-shops are closely supervised.

C. 3 (x). RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928. There are three premises in the Borough where rag flock is used and these are regularly inspected.

#### C 4. SCHOOLS.

In the year 1938, the number on school rolls of the Public Elementary Schools in the Borough was 5,142, which is a decrease of 11 from the school population in 1937. It is notable that there has not been a rise in the school population commensurate with the increase in the total population of the town,—a feature which is not confined to Maidstone,—and it is certain that the average size of families is not as great as in previous generations and that this factor, combined with the increase in longevity which the progress of public health has secured, has produced an increased proportion of adults and old folk in the nation. But though the school population is not increasing as rapidly as the total population of the Borough, there is certain to be a need for more schools as the town grows and the needs of the children in this respect will have to be met.

In previous reports, I have mentioned the higher standard of the newer schools in the Borough. During the past year, the new school for infants at Plains Avenue was completed and opened, and this school is undoubtedly an advance on any school building which has hitherto been provided in the town, and the excellence of the site and the completeness of the equipment of this latest school are reflected in the healthy and happy appearance of the children who attend there. We are still faced with the problem of the older and less satisfactory schools in the town, particularly with that of the non-provided schools where the difficulties of old and unsuitable buildings, with the problem of finance, are very great. In some cases, the managers of these non-provided schools have realised that a determined effort is necessary to bring the schools under their care to the requisite standard, but in others, there is disinclination to accept the fact that modern requirements for elementary schools will necessitate expenditure to bring the non-provided schools to the standard which is expected for our children or even to justify their retention by an up-to-date Education Authority.

Following on the opening of the new Plains Avenue School, the old school at Willington has been closed. All the schools in the Borough are now connected with the mains of the Maidstone Water Company and with the public sewer system. Improvements to the sanitary offices which were made at All Saints' C.E. School, will I hope, soon have the necessary additions to complete the sanitary provision. Re-construction of the sanitary offices at

Tovil School was carried out during the year. At St. Michael's C.E. School and St. Philip's C.E. School, further improvements will be necessary, and again I would urge that such provision is needful both as a sanitary and as an educational measure.

There are numerous private schools in the Borough and for the most part these are well equipped and housed in suitable buildings, I think, however, that it would be desirable if some system of inspection and licensing of private schools by the Education Authorities—either local or central,—in the country, could be established. There is a residential school, for children from “difficult homes” established at the mansion in Mote Park and conducted by the Uddicott Community. The drainage from this building is to a cess-pool.

The Boys' Grammar school is housed in new and excellent buildings and there have been improvements during the past year. During 1938, the long-awaited new building for the Girls' Grammar School was completed and opened and this school now has adequate and spacious accommodation. The completion of this new school has had a happy result in that the former building of the Girls' Grammar School is to become available for the extension of the East Borough Central School and will provide much-needed additional space for this cramped and overcrowded school.

During the past year, school closure on account of infectious disease was not necessary and I hope that this procedure, which has not been needed for several years, will not again be thought necessary. I am certain that school closure is of no help in the control of an outbreak of infectious disease, and indeed I am doubtful if the exclusion of contacts is of any real value.

## SECTION D.

### **Housing.**

There has been a steady and growing production of new houses in the Borough during the year and this activity seems likely to continue, for there does not appear to be any sign of a lessening demand for houses. Steady increase in the population of the town creates a constant need for new houses, which the efforts of both private enterprise and municipal building have not yet overtaken. In the past year, 238 new houses and 33 new flats have been erected by private builders, while the Corporation has been responsible for the building of 107 houses.

It might be expected that this activity would have had the result of meeting the needs of those seeking a home, but such is not yet the case. Hardly a day passes in which there is not an enquiry at the Health Department for advice and help in the quest for a house. The new houses which are being built by private builders are almost invariably offered for sale and for the better paid of the workers, there is a choice of such houses. The weekly repayments advertised on these houses do not compare unfavourably with the rents charged for houses to let, but there is an initial deposit to be made, which is beyond the resources of most of the seekers for a home and the man whose employment is not secure and who feels that he is unable to assume the burden of repairs and upkeep, which house purchase on the instalment plan places upon him, has great difficulty in finding a house to rent at anything like a reasonable figure. The small number of houses available for letting results in the demanding of rents which are in many cases excessive, both for houses and for rooms. There is a great need of more houses to rent in the town and as it appears that private enterprise either cannot or will not supply this demand, the only solution would seem to be the continuance of municipal building, until supply and demand in some measure approximate—a position which is still far from being reached.

Appended below is the statistical information which is asked for by the Minister of Health

### Housing Statistics.

<b>I. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year.</b>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	687
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	823
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-section (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	31
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	123
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	332
<b>II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.</b>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers ... ..	303

**Housing Statistics, (continued).****III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.****A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	29
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	18
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	2

**B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	203
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	185
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

**C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	42

**D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—

**III.—Housing Act, 1936. Part 4—Overcrowding.**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	91
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	91
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	615
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	33
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	210
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	—

Of the 91 cases of overcrowding returned as existing at the end of the year, 41 cases are found in houses belonging to the Corporation and 50 in houses not belonging to the Corporation. Of these 91 dwellings returned as overcrowded, 64 were overcrowded by one or more units and 27 dwellings to the extent of one-half unit.

**ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.** In 7 cases in houses owned by the Corporation and 9 cases in houses in other ownership, the overcrowding has been abated by the transfer of the family to a large Corporation house. The remainder of cases where overcrowding has been abated are due to :—

- (a) Diminution of the size of families from removal of some members of the family concerned.
- (b) Departure of the family from the district.
- (c) The family have secured a larger house by their own efforts.

A fresh survey of the Borough for the ascertainment of overcrowding is to be undertaken in 1939 and in the scheme for the building of new Council houses on the Coombe Estate, there will be provision of new houses for the re-housing of overcrowded families.

## SECTION E.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

E (a). The cowsheds in the Borough area are 12 in number and the dairies and milkshops total 25. All these are subjected to regular inspection and are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. In the year 1938, 40 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and additional visits were paid by myself, and 62 samples of milk were taken for examination. In addition, samples of the milk supplied to the Public Elementary schools and to the Isolation Hospital were regularly taken for bacteriological examination and this practice, though it is primarily to ensure that the supply of milk for the schools and the hospital is satisfactory has an indirect result in raising the standard of bacteriologica, purity in the milk supplied in the town. The bulk of the milk sold in Maidstone is produced in the adjacent Rural Districts and the M.O.H. also holds the appointment of M.O.H. for the Hollingbourn Rural District and in this capacity is able to give supervision to some of the milk supplied in the Borough, both as produced and distributed.



E (b). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are now 16 slaughter-houses in use in the Borough area, of which 4 are licensed and 12 are registered. These slaughter-houses are frequently visited for inspection as to cleanliness and they are also under constant supervision when they are visited during the progress of slaughtering, for the inspection of meat. During the year, there were 820 inspections at the slaughter-houses, but I must again press that one of the more urgent needs in Maidstone is for a public abattoir, where all meat killed for human consumption in the town could be inspected. With the small staff of Inspectors which is available and the large number of slaughter-houses, at most of which killing is in progress at the same time, it is impossible to secure that more than a proportion of the meat killed is inspected, and the establishment of a central abattoir is a matter which ought to be considered.

The number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year was as follows :

	Cattle, ex- cluding cows			Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	
Number killed...	..	...	...	Exact number not known but approximately 80% inspected.				
Number inspected	...	..	...	191	243	151	2185	3877
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.								
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	—	2	1	14	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	12	30	—	9	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	...	...	6.2	13.2	.7	1.0	1.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.								
Whole carcasses condemned	..	...	...	3	20	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	..	...	12	70	—	—	96
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	...	7.8	37.0	—	—	2.5

No meat marking scheme, under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force.

During the year, the following quantities of foods of various descriptions were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, all of which was surrendered and destroyed, included the following :—

Tinned foods	...	23 tons, 10 cwt., 6 stone, 7 lbs.
Hams	...	3 stone, 6½ lbs.
Tongue	...	11 lbs.
Meat	...	2 tons, 1 cwt., 1 qr., 7½ lbs.
Fish	..	3 stone 7 lbs.

E (c).

ADULTERATION Etc.

Samples of various articles as shown in the following list were taken and examined with the results as given below :—

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number Genuine.
New Milk ... ..	62	54
Whisky ... ..	3	3
Sausages (Beef) ... ..	1	1
Butter .. ..	1	4
Margarine ... ..	5	5
Coffee and Chicory ... ..	1	1
Vinegar ... ..	1	1
Baking Powder ... ..	1	1
Mustard .. ..	1	1
Pepper ... ..	1	1
Lard Substitute ... ..	1	1
Lard .. ..	1	1
Egg Substitute ... ..	1	1
Mixed Spice .. ..	1	1
	84	76

## PROSECUTIONS.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

## E (d). CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The chemical analysis of samples of food is carried out by the Public Analyst, for the Borough, Mr. E. M. Hawkins, F.I.C., F.C.S., at Canterbury, and the bacteriological examinations required are made at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

E (e). NUTRITION. During the year, there have been lectures on nutrition, especially in the direction of feeding of infants and children, given at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and other organisations have had lectures, some illustrated by films on this subject.

E (f). SHELL-FISH (*molluscan*). There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district and no action has been taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

## SECTION F.

**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious  
and other Diseases.**

F. (2) There has not been any noteworthy prevalence of notifiable infectious disease in the town and the incidence has been spread over the year with no marked epidemic prevalence at



any time. Though there has been a slight increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever,—49 cases in 1938 as against 45 in 1937,—this incidence has not assumed epidemic proportions, and the cases have continued to be of a mild type, with no deaths from this disease. Two of the cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital from other areas, *via* the Ophthalmic Hospital, so that the cases from the Borough were in fact 47 in number. Of the notified cases, 46 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 3 cases, in which there were adequate facilities for isolation and nursing in their homes, were not removed. The cases of diphtheria notified were 37, which is 14 less than the number reported in 1937 and of these, 4 were cases from the Kent County Mental Hospital and 2 were transferred from the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, so that the actual number from the Borough was 31, and I begin to hope that the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria is already showing results. I regret to have to report that there was one death from this disease and several of the cases admitted have been very severe. Again I have to comment on the regrettable delay which is sometimes found in the administration of anti-toxin. Supplies of the diphtheria anti-toxin are available for the use of medical practitioners and are issued on demand at the Health Department Offices, at the Isolation Hospital and at the Police Station, but it is very rarely that I find that the anti-toxin has been given before the case is admitted to hospital. I must again stress that it is neither necessary nor desirable to wait for the laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis before using the anti-toxin and that delay in administration of this remedy may be the cause of losing the patient.

Thirty-seven cases of pneumonia were notified and there were 24 deaths from this disease. I cannot think that these notification figures are of much value or that valid conclusions can be drawn therefrom. Ten cases of erysipelas were reported of which 6 were from the Kent County Mental Hospital, and there were 4 cases of cerebro-spinal fever, with 3 deaths.

I give below an analysis of the notifications of infectious diseases, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred. For this table, I have excluded the cases occurring in the Hospitals.

	High St.	Stone St.	King St.	North	Heath	Bridge
Scarlet Fever	7	9	5	6	14	6
Diphtheria	5	16	1	4	4	1
Pneumonia	2	1	—	2	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	1	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	2	3	—	—

There has been no severe out-break of non-notifiable disease in the past year. The Spring months produced a considerable amount of epidemic catarrh and colds, with some cases of the true influenzal type. Whooping-cough and chicken pox were prevalent in the schools and in the late autumn there was a large amount of school attendances lost from these causes.

For any cases of small-pox which may occur in the Borough the hospital provision is at the hospital at Harps Wood, Hollingbourn, which belongs to the Hollingbourn R.D.C. There have been no cases of small-pox in the past year or for many years past and this is a matter for congratulation, for I cannot say that the provision at this hospital is entirely satisfactory or that it could be brought into use, if required, without much difficulty. While it is a matter for satisfaction that small-pox has been absent from the town for so long, I am seriously concerned at the possible results of an out-break, for the state of vaccination among the inhabitants is far from satisfactory and this measure of protection has been greatly neglected, with the result that the percentage of un-vaccinated children in the Borough of Maidstone is now very large.

I have written in previous reports on the subject of the Isolation Hospital in Fant Lane and have reported on its limitations and deficiencies to the Health Committee on many occasions. The available beds at this hospital only allow of the admission of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and no accommodation exists for such diseases as polio-myelitis, for puerperal fever cases or for complicated cases of Measles. Erysipelas cases can only be sent to the Public Assistance hospitals and it is not possible to admit fevers of the enteric group, which have to be treated in the West Kent General Hospital—a procedure which I do not consider desirable. There are no observation wards, private wards or any kind of cubicle ward and, even if beds for cases of diseases other than diphtheria and scarlet fever existed, there is no space for the domestic and nursing staff which would be required and the kitchen and laundry accommodation which now exists is insufficient even for the present needs of the hospital. The nurses home is not large enough to house even the present staff and does not provide the comfort and convenience necessary to attract and retain nurses for the hospital. The buildings are antiquated, inconvenient and expensive to maintain and heat and the design and lay-out of the hospital, with the insufficient number of beds, makes this hospital inadequate for the needs of the Borough. That good results are obtained reflects great credit on the Matron and the nursing staff, who have to live and work in such unsatisfactory conditions, but the re-construction and extension of this hospital is a matter which should not be put off. I have been calling attention to the deficiencies of the hospital in annual reports

for the last eight years and we have been awaiting a decision on the suggested scheme, under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929. Proposals for a combination of the Isolation Hospitals of a group of Authorities have been made, but Maidstone needs and desires its own hospital and there is space on the site for the needful extensions and improvements to provide an enlarged hospital, adequate for the requirements of the town and I urge that this extension should be no longer delayed.

The work in connection with the artificial immunisation of school children against diphtheria has been continued during the year. In this country and more particularly in Canada and in the U.S.A., it has been clearly demonstrated that the ravages of diphtheria in the community can be checked and this dread removed from the lives of the children by means of the system of protective inoculation, and that if the percentage of immunised persons is brought sufficiently high, the disease can be controlled and the mortality from it reduced to a minimum. The procedure is simple and causes no disturbance and, while we are not claiming that 100% protection can be guaranteed, it is certain that the danger of diphtheria is one that, with medical knowledge and parental foresight can now be avoided.

In the past year, the Schick test for susceptibility to diphtheria was carried out on 331 children who had previously been Schick positive and had been immunised. Of these 310 were negative while 21 were positive and received further immunising doses. 347 new children were Schick tested, 28 being negative, while 319 gave a positive reaction. These were immunised and subsequent tests in 220 of these showed that 214 had become negative while 6 remained positive.

The children thus immunised were all of school age with the exception of 5 pre-school children, whose parents asked that they might be protected. I should prefer that this protection should be given to the children before they enter on their school life, but it has not so far been possible to arrange for immunisation other than through the schools. I am glad to report that there is an increasing desire on the part of the parents to secure protection for their children and I hope that before long a large proportion of the children in the Borough will have been given the safeguard which immunisation affords.

The immunising has been carried out at the schools and I have found that the help and interest of the teachers is the most valuable aid in the furthering of this work. A letter to every parent of the children in a school in which there has been a case, evokes a pleasing response and the personal interest of the teacher

is of more value than of any notice in the paper or other means of publicity. The immunising agent we have used has been that known as T.A.I., which has given good results with a minimum of reaction. Three consecutive injections are given, and despite the fact that it requires three attendances instead of two, I consider that this agent is preferable to the recently introduced A.P.T., as the latter is liable to produce a temporary local induration at the site of the injection, which is disturbing to the mind of the parent. So far, no steps have been taken to institute the use of measles serum for the prevention or attenuation of this disease.

School notifications of infections and other diseases are sent to me by the Head Teachers of the Public Elementary Schools and also of the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools and the Junior Technical School. The system of having such notice of school absence due to actual or suspected illness sent to the M.O.H. is of great value, and I trust that the Teachers will realise the need for this assistance and that the notifications will be sent in more regularly. These notifications are of especial value in the investigation of the non-notifiable diseases, such as measles or chicken-pox, where such information received from the schools is often the only source from which the Health Department can learn of the outbreak.

Particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases—other than tuberculosis—in the Borough during 1938, are set out in the accompanying table:—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	49	46	—
Diphtheria ... ..	37	37	1
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and „    Pyrexia ..	7	6	3
Pneumonia ... ..	37	28	24
Erysipelas... ..	10	6	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	13	—
Polionmyelitis ... ..	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	4	4	3
Totals ... ..	158	141	31

An analysis of the cases of notifiable disease according to age-groups and also a similar analysis of the deaths from notifiable diseases, will be found in the Tables at the end of this Report.

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria .....	28	409	437
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	60	292	352
Various ... ..	18	38	56
	106	739	845

#### EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This service is provided by the Kent County Council and it is greatly to the advantage of the Borough to have so complete a laboratory service at hand. I should like to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the County Laboratory, particularly in the very prompt examination of diphtheria swabs and in the investigation of milk samples. The details of the specimens which have been sent from the Borough area for examination and report are set out in the Table above.

#### DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for the disinfection of infected premises or articles have been described in previous reports and have continued to work satisfactorily. During 1938, 168 rooms and 5311 articles were disinfected and details of this work are to be found in the Tables at the end of this report.

#### F 3. CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer in Maidstone during the past 10 years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1929 .....	67
1930 .....	53
1931 .....	64
1932 .....	70
1933 .....	59
1934 .....	69
1935 .....	66
1936 .....	78
1937 .....	69
1938 .....	80

**Deaths from Cancer during 1938 under  
age groups.**

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—
1	—	—
5	—	—
15	—	—
25	—	1
35	1	3
45	4	5
55	10	13
65 and upwards.	18	25
Totals	33	47

(a) F 4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
13	—	13	13	—	—	—

For the treatment of injuries to, and diseases of, the eyes, the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital is available where specialist advice and treatment is obtainable. The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum recorded above were treated in the hospital, with successful results in every case.

(b) Tuberculosis. No action was necessary during 1938 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



## F 5. TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
5 ... ..	4	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
15 ... ..	5	5	1	3	3	3	—	1
25 ... ..	11	9	—	1	4	4	—	—
35 ... ..	6	6	—	—	4	4	—	—
45 ... ..	6	4	—	—	6	3	—	1
55 ... ..	5	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
Totals ...	27	31	3	7	20	16	1	4

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 35. The number which had not been notified was 6.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .17 to 1.

**TABLE Ia.**  
**Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under**  
**Age Groups.**

Disease.	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 35	35- 45	45- 65	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	4	5	13	7	7	9	1	3	—	49
Diphtheria .....	1	—	—	3	2	10	10	6	2	3	—	—	37
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia .....	4	2	2	3	—	5	2	1	6	7	4	1	37
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Cerebro-spinal- Fever .....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
Totals.....	18	2	2	10	8	30	19	15	27	13	10	4	158

**TABLE Ib.**  
**Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under**  
**Age Groups.**

Disease.	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro Spinal- Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Sepsis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Pneumonia .....	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	4	7	6	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	4	5	7	6	31



TABLE IIa.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes	..	...	...	..	..	...	264	265
1	Typhoid fever, etc....	...	..	...	..	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
3	Scarlet Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	..	1	...
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	..	...	...	...	2	1
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	..	...	...	...	20	16
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	..	1	4
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	..	3	...
12	General paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	33	47
14	Diabetes	...	...	..	...	...	5	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9	12
16	Heart Disease	...	..	...	...	...	66	71
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	22	18
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	11	10
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
21	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
22	Peptic Ulcer...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
23	Diarrhoea, (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	..	...	...	...	1	0
26	Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
30	Other puerperal diseases	...	..	...	...	...	0	3
31	Congenital Debility, prem. birth etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
32	Senility	...	...	..	...	...	7	16
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
34	Other Violence	..	...	..	...	...	14	5
35	Other defined causes	..	...	...	...	...	23	13
36	Ill-defined or not known	...	...	...	..	...	1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).								
	Small-pox	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
	Polio-myelitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
	Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE II. B.

Deaths apportioned to the Wards of the Borough							
Month	High St.	King St.	North	Stone St.	Bridge	Heath	Totals
January	5	9	7	9	5	5	40
February	6	2	3	11	5	5	32
March	6	4	8	4	4	5	31
April	8	4	5	11	8	7	43
May	5	5	8	9	7	5	39
June	8	5	8	5	2	5	33
July	6	8	4	3	3	4	28
August	5	2	3	4	6	7	27
September	4	2	6	3	8	7	30
October	4	5	9	3	9	4	34
November	2	5	5	5	3	8	28
December	7	7	6	3	9	6	38
Add Transfers	35	18	20	20	19	14	126
Totals	101	76	92	90	88	82	529

TABLE IIIa.

INFANT MORTALITY. Apportioned to the Wards of Borough.					
High Street	Bridge	King Street	Stone Street	Heath	North
2	nil.	2	7	2	9

TABLE IIIb.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1938. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
	9	—	—	—	9	7	1	3	2	22
All Causes ... ..	9	—	—	—	9	7	1	3	2	22
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Diarrhœa ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	5
Premature birth ... ..	6	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Nett Live Births in the year	{ Legitimate ... ..				654					
	{ Illegitimate ... ..				32					
Nett Deaths in the year	{ Legitimate ... ..				18					
	{ Illegitimate ... ..				4					

TABLE IV.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1938.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	8 beds West Kent General Hospital. 8 beds Maidstone Council.
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	Total 273. (including patients admitted more than once). (184 Maidstone patients.)
(4) Average duration of stay	17.3 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	195 34
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by Medical Officer.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) „ Pyrexia	Nil. 6
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	40
(10) Number of cases notified as :— (a) Ophthalmia Neonatorum (b) Result of treatment in each case	1 Cured
(11) Number of Maternal deaths	1
(12) Number of Infant Deaths— (a) Stillborn (b) within 10 days of birth	17 5

**TABLE Va.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Forstal Water Supply.**

Date of Collection.	No. of Organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli (Presumptive) in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
29.12.37.	5	2	Absent
2.2.38.	0	0	Absent
1.3.38.	5	1	Absent
6.4.38.	3	0	Absent
2.5.38.	1	1	Absent
1.6.38.	1	0	Absent
1.7.38.	1	0	Absent
3.8.38.	0	0	Absent
6.9.38.	1	1	Absent
5.10.38.	0	0	Absent
3.11.38.	2	1	Absent
7.12.38.	0	0	Absent

**TABLE Vb.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Boarley Water Supply.**

Date.	No. of organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli (presumptive) in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
20.12.37.	4	1	Absent
	3	1	Absent
2.2.38.	7	2	Present in 50 C.C.
1.3.38.	220	3	Absent
	7	1	Absent
6.4.38.	0	0	Absent
	0	2	Absent
2.5.38.	5	1	Absent
	1	2	Absent
1.6.38.	11	0	Absent
	1	0	Absent
1.7.38.	6	1	Absent
	3	1	Absent
3.8.38.	0	0	Absent
	0	0	Absent
6.9.38.	3	1	Absent
	2	1	Absent
5.10.38.	8	0	Absent
	4	0	Absent
3.11.38.	1	1	Absent
	5	1	Absent
7.12.38.	2	0	Absent
	2	0	Absent

**TABLE Vc.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Cossington Water Supply.**  
**(Nos. 1 & 2).**

Date of Collection.	No. of organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
29.12.37.	21	2	Absent
17.2.38.	11	0	Absent
1.3.38.	47	1	Absent
6.4.38.	2	0	Absent
2.5.38.	50	1	Absent
1.6.38.	2	1	Present in 90 C.C.
1.7.38.	5	1	Absent
3.8.38.	0	0	Absent
6.9.38.	4	1	Absent
5.10.38.	4	0	Absent
3.11.38.	5	1	Absent
7.12.38.	2	0	Absent

**TABLE Vd.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Cossington Water Supply.**  
**(No. 3).**

Date of Collection.	No. of Organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
29.12.37.	10	2	Absent
2.2.38.	6	1	Absent
1.3.38.	17	1	Absent
6.4.38.	0	1	Absent
2.5.38.	5	1	Absent
1.6.38.	1	0	Absent
1.7.38.	9	1	Absent
3.8.38.	6	0	Absent
6.9.38.	3	1	Absent
5.10.38.	6	0	Absent
3.11.38.	9	2	Absent
7.12.38.	14	0	Absent



**TABLE Ve.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Ewell (Chlorinated).**

Date of Collection.	No. of organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli (presumptive) in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
29.12.37.	6	2	Absent
2.2.38.	37	8	Absent
1.3.38.	25	1	Absent
6.4.38.	2	2	Absent
2.5.38.	1	1	Absent
1.6.38.	0	0	Absent
1.7.38.	10	2	Absent
3.8.38.	28	0	Absent
6.9.38.	1	1	Absent
5.10.38.	4	2	Absent
3.11.38.	1	1	Absent
7.12.38.	2	0	Absent

**TABLE Vf.**  
**Bacteriological Examination.**  
**Ewell (Raw).**

Date of Collection.	No. of organisms per C.C. capable of growth at :—		B. Coli (presumptive) in 100 C.C.
	22°C.	37°C.	
29.12.37.	138	5	Absent
17.2.38.	826	0	Absent
1.3.38.	46	3	Absent
6.4.38.	57	0	Absent
2.5.38.	14	2	Absent
1.6.38.	13	0	Absent
1.7.38.	1,260	30	Absent
3.8.38.	6	0	Absent
6.9.38.	12	5	Absent
5.10.38.	21	0	Present in 50 C.C.S.
3.11.38.	21	2	Absent
7.12.38.	26	2	Absent in 90 C.C.S.

**TABLE VIa.**  
**Forstal Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.38.	0.00	0.00	.0035	.0056	38.8	2.35	.25	0.00	24.6	0.00
4.2.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.006	38.8	2.35	.32	0.00	24.6	0.00
4.3.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	38.8	2.40	.17	0.00	25.2	0.00
9.4.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.005	38.8	2.40	.43	0.00	25.2	0.00
7.5.38.	0.00	0.0004	.006	.009	38.8	2.40	.36	0.00	25.2	0.007
27.5.38.	0.0001	0.0003	.006	.007	38.8	2.40	.38	0.00	24.7	0.01
2.7.38.	0.00	0.0001	.005	.008	38.5	2.10	.32	0.00	24.7	0.01
29.7.38.	0.00	0.0003	.001	.006	38.5	2.40	.23	0.00	25.2	0.00
2.9.38.	0.00	0.0003	.001	.006	38.5	2.40	.42	0.00	25.2	0.004
1.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	38.5	2.40	.27	0.00	25.2	0.002
28.10.38.	0.00	0.0003	.001	.006	38.5	2.40	.23	0.00	25.2	0.00
3.12.38.	0.00	0.0003	.002	.005	38.5	2.40	.38	0.00	25.2	0.002
Mean results for 1938.	0.00	0.0002	.0037	.006	38.6	2.40	.31	0.00	25.1	0.003

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE VIb.**  
**Ewell Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.38.	0.00	0.00	.0028	.0056	33.0	2.03	.34	0.00	21.0	0.00
4.2.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	32.5	1.93	.29	0.00	21.0	0.00
4.3.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	32.2	1.93	.11	0.00	20.2	0.00
9.4.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.006	32.5	1.93	.34	0.00	20.2	0.00
7.5.38.	0.004	0.0001	.008	.009	28.0	1.93	.43	0.00	18.2	0.01
27.5.38.	0.001	0.0004	.006	.007	32.2	1.93	.32	0.00	21.0	0.01
2.7.38.	0.00	0.0003	.001	.006	29.1	1.93	.32	0.00	17.1	0.01
29.7.38.	0.00	0.0001	.003	.005	29.3	1.93	.29	0.00	17.1	0.00
2.9.38.	0.00	0.0001	.001	.006	29.8	1.95	.35	0.00	18.8	0.02
1.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	29.3	1.95	.37	0.00	17.1	0.02
28.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	30.0	1.95	.25	0.00	19.6	0.00
3.12.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	29.1	1.90	.23	0.00	19.2	.007
Mean results for 1938.	0.00	0.0001	.0035	.0058	30.7	1.94	.30	0.00	19.2	0.003

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE VIc.**  
**Boarley Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.38.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0035	25.2	1.51	.43	0.00	15.7	0.00
4.2.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	25.7	1.51	.46	0.00	15.7	0.00
4.3.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	25.7	1.51	.17	0.00	16.0	0.00
9.4.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	25.7	1.51	.43	0.00	16.0	0.00
7.5.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	25.2	1.54	.43	0.00	15.4	0.02
27.5.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	24.9	1.50	.38	0.00	15.7	0.01
2.7.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	24.9	1.50	.35	0.00	15.7	0.01
29.7.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	24.9	1.50	.32	0.00	15.7	0.00
2.9.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.005	24.9	1.50	.46	0.00	15.7	0.004
1.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.004	24.8	1.50	.37	0.00	15.7	0.002
28.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	24.8	1.50	.35	0.00	15.7	0.00
3.12.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	24.8	1.50	.40	0.00	15.7	0.002
Mean results for 1938.	0.00	0.00	.0028	.005	25.1	1.51	.38	0.00	15.7	0.004

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE VIId.**  
**Cossington Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.38.	0.00	0.00	.0014	.0035	23.4	1.30	.21	0.00	16.0	0.00
4.2.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	23.4	1.33	.35	0.00	16.2	0.00
4.3.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	23.2	1.33	.31	0.00	16.0	0.00
9.4.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	23.1	1.33	.36	0.00	15.7	0.01
7.5.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	23.0	1.33	.36	0.00	15.4	0.04
27.5.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.006	22.5	1.30	.28	0.00	14.8	0.02
2.7.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.005	22.3	1.30	.35	0.00	14.8	0.01
29.7.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.005	22.5	1.30	.29	0.00	14.8	0.06
2.9.38.	0.00	0.00	.004	.005	22.3	1.30	.42	0.00	14.8	0.06
1.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.002	.001	22.3	1.30	.28	0.00	14.8	0.01
28.10.38.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	22.3	1.25	.31	0.00	14.8	0.02
3.12.38.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	19.2	1.25	.32	0.00	12.9	0.02
Mean results for 1938.	0.00	0.00	.0027	.0048	22.5	1.30	.32	0.00	15.0	0.02

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE VII.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1938 and previous years.**

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Averages for 10 years	1938
Death-Rate ...	10·6	12·6	11·7	11·2	12·2	11·5	10·7	10·3	11·2	11·1	11·3	10·2
Birth-Rate ...	15·9	15·9	16·1	15·2	14·8	13·7	13·8	14·0	14·8	13·7	14·8	14·2
Infant Mortality Rate	49	50	58	17	51	31	38	40	55	45	45	32
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·59	·81	·96	·76	·63	·96	·70	·88	·62	·76	·77	·76
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·17	·20	·25	·17	·21	·09	·20	·11	·17	·15	·17	·10
Diphtheria ...	·02	·07	—	·07	·07	·05	·09	·06	·06	·04	·05	·02
Scarlet Fever ...	·07	—	—	—	—	·02	·01	—	—	—	·01	—

**TABLE VIII**  
**Birth-Rates, Death-Rates & Analysis of Mortality in the year 1938.**

(The rates of England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1937, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1936. The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London, Maidstone and the towns to civilians only.)

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year
England and Wales	14·8	·61	12·1	·01	—	·07	·01	·05	·07	·14	·52	5·9	59
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14·9	·67	12·3	·01	—	·09	·01	·06	·08	·14	·45	8·9	63
143 Smaller Towns	15·0	·64	11·5	·00	—	·01	·01	·04	·05	·15	·39	3·4	55
Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census													
London ...	13·6	·53	12·5	·01	—	·14	·01	·06	·05	·14	·52	14·1	66
Maidstone ...	11·8	·53	10·2	—	—	·06	—	·02	·06	·04	·36	1·6	38

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000	( England and Wales	... 89	2·19	3·08
Live Births.	( Maidstone ...	... —	4·37	4·37
per 1,000	( England and Wales	... 86	2·11	2·97
Total Births.	( Maidstone ...	... —	4·20	4·20

TABLE IX.

**List of Rooms and Articles Disinfected  
during 1938.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.	Rooms.
January ...	46	32	13	36	64	14	37	—	14	118	374	15
February ...	44	34	14	38	75	13	44	6	12	117	397	14
March ...	44	34	13	39	68	11	38	—	12	165	424	15
April ...	52	36	16	36	60	14	36	—	12	121	383	19
May ...	36	23	9	34	39	12	24	6	10	63	256	9
June ...	48	22	10	57	50	9	28	6	10	138	378	10
July ...	47	40	19	48	79	18	31	10	17	244	553	17
August ...	69	32	16	51	66	21	39	22	16	196	531	18
September	72	51	27	51	77	23	32	—	16	159	508	15
October ...	53	34	15	46	57	20	42	9	16	139	431	9
November...	45	26	13	26	51	15	25	22	9	90	327	10
December...	112	65	43	63	130	36	69	61	26	244	749	17
Totals ...	668	429	208	528	816	206	445	142	170	1794	5311	168

## METEOROLOGY.

---

The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table X.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·74, the highest mean readings being for February and April 30·06, and the lowest for August and November 29·57.

The hottest month was August, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 74°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 59°, while the coldest month was December, with a mean of the maximum readings of 44° and a mean of the minimum readings of 34°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 149 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 22·95 inches, the heaviest amount falling in January, viz., 2·91 inches, while in April the amount registered was ·29 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 171 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.



TABLE X.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1938, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.  
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	—	1	9	—	2	17	1	1
February ...	1	6	3	2	6	5	2	3
March ...	—	1	2	3	5	13	1	6
April ...	8	8	7	—	—	1	2	4
May ...	3	5	5	2	4	9	2	1
June ...	1	1	3	2	2	17	—	4
July ...	—	1	—	1	—	28	1	—
August ...	—	5	5	1	5	8	4	3
September ...	—	1	4	4	—	16	—	5
October ...	2	—	2	2	4	16	1	4
November ...	—	—	1	8	7	12	—	2
December ...	1	2	1	5	8	7	4	3
Totals ...	16	31	42	30	43	149	18	36

  

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. OF DAYS ON WHICH '01 FELL.
January ...	29.70	48	38	2.91	23
February ...	30.06	46	36	1.13	11
March ...	30.02	58	39	.54	6
April ...	30.06	56	39	.29	7
May ...	29.70	62	45	2.67	15
June ...	29.66	73	53	.66	8
July ...	29.61	72	54	1.61	13
August ...	29.57	71	59	1.63	13
September ...	29.68	67	53	2.64	14
October ...	29.62	58	43	2.43	19
November ...	29.57	55	41	2.64	20
December ...	29.65	44	34	3.86	22
Averages & Totals for the Year .....	29.74	59	45	22.95	171

TABLE XI.

RECORD OF SUNSHINE DURING 1938.

Month.					Hours.	Minutes.
January	...	...	...	...	29	18
February	...	...	...	...	79	12
March	...	...	...	...	181	12
April	...	...	...	...	161	12
May	...	...	...	...	156	42
June	...	...	...	...	229	24
July	...	...	...	...	186	30
August	...	...	...	...	170	36
September	...	...	...	...	131	48
October	...	...	...	...	121	18
November	...	...	...	...	40	12
December	...	...	...	...	31	00
Total					1518 hours	00 minutes.

## BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

**GENERAL SUMMARY.**

Population (estimated 1938) ... ..	47,630
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) ... ..	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books ... ..	12,940
Average Number of Persons per House (1921) ... ..	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1938) ... ..	3·7
Area ... ..	5,972 acres
Density ... ..	7·9 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate ... .. per 1,000 population	14·2
Annual Death Rate ... .. „ „	10·2
Phthisis Death Rate ... .. „ „	·76
Other Tuberculosis Diseases Death Rate „ „	·10
Cancer Death Rate ... .. „ „	1·68
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births ... ..	32·1
Live Births .. {Males, 358} {Females 328} ... ..	686
Deaths ... {Males 264} {Females 265} ... ..	529
Excess of Births over Deaths ... ..	157
Comparability Factor ... ..	·92
Elevation.—The Population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.	





